Updating of Industrial Relations Laws

767. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that different interests, including the employees, foreign investors have been feeling concerned about the delay in updating the industrial relations laws;

(b) whether a new Industrial Relations policy has been evolved and a new draft Industrial Relations Legislation has been on the anvil;

(c) if so, what are the salient features of the legislation and by when it is likely to be brought before Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) On the basis of wide-ranging discussions held in the past in different forums including the Conference of State Labour Ministers and the Indian Labour Conference, proposals to amend two main enactments regulating industrial relations *viz.*, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are under consideration of Government.

Streamlining of existing Labour Policy

768. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether government propose to streamline the existing labour policy;

(b) if so, the details of the changes Government propose to make in the existing labour policy;

(c) whether any discussion with the representatives of industries and trade unions have been held before making any changes in the labour policy; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The process of streamlining the Labour Policy is in the nature of a continuous process. This exercise is undertaken by Government with close cooperation of the representatives of the employers and the workers and through tripartite discussion. On the basis of wide ranging discussions held in the past in different forums including the Conference of State Labour Ministers and the Indian Labour Conference, amendments to some of the labour legislations are under consideration of Government with the objective of enhancing productivity, creating more employment opportunities, achieving speedier dispute resolution and securing harmonious industrial relations.

PF dues from Public Sector Undertakings

769. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ascertained the exact dues of Provident Fund accounts from various public sector undertakings of the Central Government located in different places in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated action against various managements of those units without taking into consideration the fact that these accounts have come in arrears due to curtailment of financial support and assistance of centre;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the provident fund authorities have not initiated discussions with individual units for making payments of arrears in easy instalments without affecting their working capital operations;

(d) whether any concrete action would now be taken to resolve these issues without taking recourse to the penal laws; and

(e) if so, what are the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary recovery action has been initiated because the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 does not treat a private or public sector establishment

differently on the ground of financial difficulties of the respective units.

(c) to (e) There are certain guide-lines for grant of instalment facilities which can be availed by the establishments. No penal action is taken against the establishments if the Provident fund dues are realised under the normal recovery procedures.

Revision of wages for Newspaper Employees

770. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a fresh memorandum from the All India Newspaper Employees Federation rejecting the contentions of the Indian Newspaper Society and reiterating its demand for early wage revision in the newspaper industry; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take on the memorandum in view of the fact that the Bhachawat Wage Board was set up about 8 years ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter regarding setting up of a new Wage Board for Newspaper and News-Agency employees is under consideration of the Government.

Consumer price index for Industrial Workers

771. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the consumer price index for industrial workers during last nine months *i.e.* (April to December, 1992);

(b) in what manner does it compare with that of the same period during 1991-92; and

(c) what has been the rate of inflation in terms of Consumer Price Index during April—December, 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The Consumer Price Index Number for Industrial Workers (BASE 1982=100) in the period April—December during 1991 and 1992, alongwith the percentage rate of inflation on point to point basis, is as given below:

Months	1991	1992	Percentage rate of Inflation
April	202	231	14.36
May	204	234	14.71
June	209	236	12.92
July	214	242	13.08
August	217	242	11.52
September	221	243	9.95
October	223	244	9.42
November	225	244	8.44
December	225	243	8.00